

REMARKS

The indication that claims 14-19 have been allowed and that claims 4, 6-8, 12 are objected to as set forth on the Office Action Summary, and the indication that claims 4, 6-8, 12, 14-19, 22 and 23 are allowed as set forth at page 3 of the Office Action, is acknowledged.

By the above amendment, claims 3, 9-11, 20, 21, 24 and 25 have been canceled, claims 4, 6 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 5 and 13 have been amended to depend from claims 4 and 12, respectively.

As to the rejection of claims 3, 5, 9, 10, 13, 20, 21, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihara et al (2002/0000960) in view of Kitada (US 5,995,070), such rejection has been obviated in light of the canceling of claims 3, 9-11, 20, 21, 24 and 25 and the amendment of claims 5 and 13 to depend from now allowable claims 4 and 12. Therefore, comments concerning the cited art is deemed unnecessary.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 4-8, 12-19 and 23, the only claims remaining in this application, should now be in condition for allowance, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.40285X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



Melvin Kraus
Registration No. 22,466
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

MK/cee
(703) 312-6600